

June 2007 Winterport Recreation Department Report

May 5th through June 29th

Board News –

Since our last report, the Recreation Board held its May and June meetings. Our May meeting focused on planning for upcoming summer events and policies-procedures review. Our June meeting focused on final prep for the Summer Fun Day. The current draft of the Policies and Procedures document has four sections. Sections 1 and 2 are completed and approved. Section 3 is about 50% written. Section 4 has not yet been started. We continue to push forward with this effort. We will also be starting an Abbot Park Improvement Plan over the summer. We look forward to developing both short term and long term plans to make the park and even better facility than it already is.

The Board was pleased to see our proposed 2007-2008 budget was approved at the Town Meeting with minimal discussion.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 19th at 6:00pm in the VGCC.

Sponsored Programs –

Adult BBALL (men/women) These programs have been closed down for the summer.

TBall/Instructional Baseball TBall and Instructional baseball season is complete. We were very pleased by the high turn out of participants. Revenue from the program was higher than expected and expenses were lower than budgeted.

Summer Fun Day The 1st Annual Summer Fun Day/Rec Volunteer Day was held on June 23rd. As an inaugural event, we were pleased with how it went. We look forward to improving on the day for next year.

Summer Day Camps Thanks to Dave Lester and Dennis Whitney, the planning for month of day camps to be held at Abbott Park in July is complete. Providing summer recreational activities has been a Rec Board priority for many years. This program will provide a proper foundation for future.

Recreation Coordinator's Report –

We finished off the spring with a flourish with our T-Ball and Instructional Baseball teams playing games amongst each other and all going home with a baseball pendant. Make sure to visit the towns web site and go to the recreation departments page to see pictures of our T-Ball teams and volunteers. Again our programs would not run as smoothly as they do without the hard and I am sure enjoyable work of our volunteers.

The recreation board and myself wanted to show our appreciation for how much our volunteers help our children by having a "Summer Fun Day". On June 23rd we had the Summer Fun Day. It started off with the Fun Run; a 2 mile cross country/road race. The overall winner was Jon Lester. He was followed in by Jake Heeren. They both took the number one and two spots for the boys high school division. Caleb Nute and Helene Sherburne took first in the 6th thru 8th boy and girls divisions. 5th grade and under was won by Austin Nute and Tien Misler. There were 20 runners overall. They all did a great job and all looked to have fun doing it. After the run everyone, split up and played either kickball or basketball. Then we ended up having a BBQ of hamburgers and hotdogs. The day was fun and a success and we plan on doing it yearly. I would like to make a statement in that the town has an excellent Recreation board, they all show support in everything we try to do for our town's recreation activities and programs.

I have a few concerns that I have addressed with the recreation board at our June meeting. The athletic fields have gotten to a point in which it is dangerous for our youth to play and participate in our programs. Our soccer program calls for 3 medium size soccer fields and two small fields. Last year during the early weeks of spring, the athletic fields were mowed with too heavy of equipment. This caused ruts to be embedded throughout the grounds of our park. Last fall while trying to find areas to make our soccer fields, it was impossible to do without ruts being in the playing area. I feel that we need to address this this summer so that we can offer the best possible playing area for our children without having the danger of injury. Besides our soccer program it also involves our baseball program. This

June 2007 Winterport Recreation Department Report

May 5th through June 29th

Recreation Coordinator's Report (cont.) -

same concern has also been addressed to me by the Wagner Middle Schools Principle. It affects their baseball and softball teams and also all their visiting teams that come to play them. My suggestion is to have the fields rolled during the driest month of the summer with a street roller. One that has a vibrator like they use when laying new roads. If we wait and do this during wetter months, I fear that the roller will sink and make the condition of the fields worse. This problem with the ruts is not just on the athletic fields. It is everywhere there is grass; the fields, hills and around the tennis and basketball courts.

We are in the planning and implementing stages of our 1st Annual 3 on 3 Hampden/Winterport outdoor Basketball Tournament. It will be held in Hampden on their basketball courts by the VFW Hall on Canoe Club Road. We have decided to have this tournament with Hampden to earn money to help children that may want to go to summer camps that may need financial aid. I have talked with our town manager in finding a way to receive monies for this to happen so that we may also be able to send a child to a camp. At this point, all proceeds will be going to Hampden until we can find a way to receive monies within our recreation department to be used as scholarships in the future. Then we can make a plan in how our children could apply for these monies. One idea is to have all children interested in getting help with financial aid write a paper stating why the recreation board should pick him/her for this aid or scholarship. I would like to see a way that our department can receive monies from these types of events that can be used directly and within the same year towards our department's scholarships or even other needs; such as unplanned or unbudgeted needs.

This summer we have hired Mr. Dennis Whitney to run a summer program. This program will run during the month of July offering to our children baseball/softball, basketball, soccer and cooperative games. There has been a lot of buzz amongst parents with this free program for our kids. Hopefully it will be a success and give the kids something to do and a chance to socialize with their friends.

Winterport Recreation Coordinator - Dave Lester

Upcoming Events -

In the next month, the Recreation Board will be meeting to discuss the Abbot Park Improvement Plan and to plan the fall soccer season. Policies and Procedures finalization is also a main focus for the summer.

Summer Day Camps - Month of July